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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Letter dated 9 December 1996 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing in connection with the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A of 3 November 1980, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals relating to the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly should be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences when administrative implications were being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

Pursuant to that resolution and to the procedure adopted by the Committee on Conferences, members were informed that under paragraph 4 of the draft resolution now contained in document A/51/627, the General Assembly would decide, inter alia, that the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court will convene its fifth session from 1 to 12 December 1997 in order to complete the drafting of a widely acceptable consolidated text of a convention on the establishment of an international criminal court. The meeting in December would represent a departure from section I, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, by which no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

I wish to inform you that, having carefully reviewed the case, the Committee on Conferences recommends to the General Assembly that it grant an

exception to section I, paragraph 7, of resolution 40/243, thereby authorizing the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court to convene its fifth session at Headquarters from 1 to 12 December 1997.

(Signed) El Hassane ZAHID
Chairman
Committee on Conferences